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5 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
6 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

<p>8 Joseph Grace, an individual, 9 10 Plaintiff, 11 vs. 12 Jose De la Torre and Sandy Ruiz, a 13 married couple, 14 Defendants.</p>	<p>Case No.: 2:25-cv-01257-DWL 15 16 DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF NON- 17 PARTIES AT FAULT</p>
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16 Pursuant to A. R. S. § 12-2506(B) and Rule 26(b)(5), Ariz. R. Civ. P., Defendants
17 Jose De la Torre and Sandy Ruiz (hereinafter “Defendants”) hereby provide notice that the
18 following non-parties may have been wholly or partly at fault in causing or contributing to
19 the injuries claimed by Plaintiff in the above-captioned litigation.

20 **1. FCA US LLC (previously Chrysler Group LLC)**
21 Auburn Hills, Michigan

22 According to Plaintiff, the airbags in his Dodge Ram pickup truck failed to deploy and
23 his seat belt disengaged during the accident. FCA US LLC (“FCA US”), the US subsidiary
24 company of Dodge’s Dutch parent company Stellantis N.V., had a duty to design,
25 manufacture, and distribute a reasonable safe vehicle, including a properly functioning
26 supplemental restraint system and seat belt. The failure of the airbags to deploy in a collision
27 indicates the presence of a potential design or manufacturing defect in the vehicle’s airbag
28 system. That the seat belt disengaged during the accident indicates the presence of a potential

1 defective design or manufacturing defect of the seat belt system. As a result of the defective
2 airbag system and malfunctioning seat belt, Plaintiff allegedly moved forward during the
3 accident and struck his shoulder on the steering column. FCA US is liable under both strict
4 liable and negligence theories for these defects.

5 **2. Unknown Airbag Manufacturer**
6 **Name, Address, and Contact Information Unknown**

7 If FCA US outsourced the airbag component, the airbag manufacturer may have
8 supplied a defective module, inflator, sensor, or algorithm that failed to function properly.
9 Liability attaches under both strict liability and negligence theories for the supply of a
10 defective component used in an integrated product.

11 **3. Unknown Seat Belt Manufacturer**

13 Similarly, if FCA US outsourced the seat belt component, the seat belt manufacturer
14 may have supplied a defective retractor, buckle, pretensioner, or it may have otherwise failed
15 to operate as intended. Liability attaches under both strict liability and negligence theories
16 for the supply of a defective component used in an integrated product.

17 **4. Unknown Repair Shops, Technicians, or Service Providers**
18 **Name, Address, and Contact Information Unknown**

19 Any entity that previously serviced or replaced the airbag or seat belt system may be
20 liable if they were negligent in repairing or servicing these systems, including if the system
21 was not properly reinstalled, diagnostic codes were ignored or not cleared, or the system was
22 deactivated, damaged, or tampered with during maintenance or repair. Additionally, to the
23 extent Plaintiff himself may have serviced, modified, or otherwise interacted with the airbag
24 or seatbelt system, any such conduct may also be relevant in determining the condition and
25 functionality of these safety systems at the time of the incident.

26 **5. Tasing incident**

27 Plaintiff admitted to being tased by law enforcement during a physical altercation on
28 March 18, 2023, and reported increased pain following the incident. Plaintiff's patient

1 records note muscle spasms and increased pain on the left side, which Plaintiff attributed to
2 the subject incident.

3 **6. Rodeo**

4 Plaintiff admitted to experiencing increased pain following rodeo competitions in
5 March and April 2023. He also acknowledged prior injuries from horse training and roping
6 activities and possibly continued to engage in rodeo events after the subject accident.

7 **7. Medical Personnel**

8 Any healthcare providers or other medical personnel who treated Plaintiff owed a
9 duty of care. If Plaintiff is found to have received negligent medical treatment, his healthcare
10 providers may be liable for all or some of Plaintiff's claimed injuries and damages.

11 This case is in the early stages of discovery. Defendants therefore have not had the
12 opportunity to fully investigate all potential non-parties at fault and, as such, reserve the
13 right to identify additional non-parties at fault and/or identify more fully any and all noticed
14 individuals/entities after having the opportunity to complete their investigation, complete
15 written discovery, depose Plaintiff and all fact witnesses, retain and disclose witnesses, and
16 otherwise develop a detailed understanding of Plaintiff's specific allegations and legal
17 theories.

18 Defendants affirmatively allege that Plaintiff's alleged damages, if any, should be
19 apportioned among all parties and nonparties at fault under A.R.S. § 12-2501 and A.R.S. §
20 12-2506, including the non-parties listed above.

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22 Dated: October 20, 2025

CLYDE & CO US LLP

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By: /s/ Kira Barrett

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Kira N. Barrett

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Attorney for Defendants

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1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby certify that on October 20, 2025, I electronically transmitted the attached
3 document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a
4 Notice of Electronic Filing to all of the registered CM/ECF registrants on this matter.

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6 By: /s/ Joslin Vega

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